

THURSTON BUSY IN HIS NEW JOB

Superintendent of Schools Is Occupied with Details for Opening Monday.

PLANS NO INNOVATIONS

Talks on Enrollment and Says Washington Presents Different Situation from Other Cities.

The first administrative duties of Ernest L. Thurston, newly elected superintendent of schools in the place of Dr. William M. Davidson, were performed yesterday in the signing of sundry documents and arranging certain routine details in connection with the opening of the District schools on Monday after the regular Christmas holidays.

Mr. Thurston was deep in his work yesterday afternoon, but had made such progress that he is expected to be able to make the rounds of the schools in person Monday and make a survey of the work that will now be under his direction.

Mr. Thurston has no innovations planned now. He says that before he makes any changes—if there are any to be made—he must first get the board of education and talk the general situation over. But the chances for changes are not great. Mr. Thurston is thoroughly in accord with the policies laid down during the administration of Dr. Davidson, when he acted as assistant superintendent.

Enrollment at Lowest Point.

Mr. Thurston is starting his acquaintance with the District in the capacity of superintendent at the time when the enrollment is probably at its lowest point. The maximum enrollment for the year is usually reached about the last of October, and this year the number under tuition by the District was about 56,000.

"The schools do not see their most crowded days at the opening of the school year in the fall, as you might think," said Mr. Thurston yesterday. "There is a steady climb in membership until about November 1, and from that time on there is a gradual decline. You see, many of the people who live in Washington, do not return to the city for the winter until late in the fall and that keeps the children out. Then another thing that causes the big jump in the month of October is the fact that the night schools do not open until that month, and they materially raise the enrollment of the schools."

Compared with Other Cities.

The enrollment in the District schools is proportionally large when the population of the city and the school enrollment are compared with those of other cities, according to Mr. Thurston. "The situation in the Capital is quite unique," he said. "In most cities the number in the public schools are cut down by the private schools, but in Washington the private schools do not seem to draw from the population of the city itself, but they recruit from other cities, and the public schools have to take care of most of the city's children. Therefore, there is an unusually large enrollment here. Visiting educators often have remarked on this."

A Message from Dr. Davidson

A message from Dr. Davidson was received by Mr. Thurston yesterday in the form of a telegram from Pittsburgh, with New Year's wishes for the new superintendent, the officials of the board, and the teachers and pupils of the schools.

LIVES BOUND UP IN OTHERS.

Rabbi Abram Simon Tells of Dependence in Fellow-men.

"All of us are bound up in the bundle of life in our responsibilities," declared Rabbi Abram Simon last night in his lecture on "The Bundle of Life," at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. "We cannot separate ourselves from the life of our fellow-men. Our life is bound up with the life of the humblest individual in the world."

Dr. Simon, in the course of his remarks, referred to the influence that a friend, and even a chance acquaintance, may have upon one's life. Some great crisis in a person's life is often solved, he declared, by unexpected aid from a chance acquaintance. The lesson of New Year is the learning to lighten the burden of others, he said.

FIRE INQUIRY ENDS TODAY.

Trapping of Five Firemen Is Being Investigated.

Whether formal charges should be filed against any official of the fire department in connection with the trapping of five firemen in the burning building of the American Five and Ten-cent Store on Seventh street, December 24, will be decided today probably, when the investigation into the fire will be concluded by Commissioner Siddons.

Witnesses who testified before the Commissioner yesterday were Capt. H. C. Egloff, of No. 3 Engine Company; Sergeant J. E. Catts, and Private J. L. Thompson, of the First police precinct, and Fire Marshal P. W. Nicholson.

MISSIONARY DESCRIBES

DISTRESS OF THOUSANDS

IN WAR-SWEPT BALKANS

London, Jan. 2.—Some idea of the distress that is rampant in the Balkans may be gleaned from a letter received in London today from Dr. Elmer Ernst Count, superintendent of the American Methodist Episcopal Mission at Sofia. He says: "There is undoubtedly a great deal of suffering in Bulgaria. The number of refugees who fled into Bulgaria because of the ravages of war has been estimated at anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000. The government has come nobly to the front in endeavoring to sustain them, giving as shelters the school houses and public buildings of various sorts. Bread has been given the starving, and most of the refugees have been

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"Kids" Make Tanbark Fly At Riding and Hunt Club

Diminutive Cowboys, Indians, Bandits, and Other Familiar Historic Characters "Pull Off" Equestrian "Stunts" that Would Do Credit to Their Elders.

Diminutive cowboys, Indians, bandits, and other small specimens of familiar historic characters caused the tanbark to fly in the riding hall of the Riding and Hunt Club to fly yesterday afternoon during the performance of sundry feats of equestrianism, while a good-sized gathering of fashionable Washington applauded from the club galleries.

The children's costume drill brought out many clever costumes in addition to a splendid exhibition of riding, and any of the competitors in the event went home happy in the possession of handsome trophies presented by Mrs. Robert Means Thompson. After the six numbers of the entertainment had been run off, luncheon was served to the children, and there was tea for their elders. Mrs. Thompson was hostess.

Cowboys were the favorite by long odds. There were five of them—very fierce in long-haired "chaps," red bandana handkerchiefs, and holsters with real guns—and there was Robin Hood, and a Jap, an Indian, an amazon, and other notables in the group of riders.

Four Prizes Awarded.

Mrs. Sinclair Bowen, Miss Helen Buchanan, Henri de Sibour, Constantin Bran, Minister from Denmark, and Jack Sieber acted as the judges, and the first prize were silver cups; second, riding whips; third, boxes of candy, and fourth, ribbons.

The first event was the costume drill for judging on general appearances. Under the leadership of Miss Teilton,

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EXPANSION OF BIG ASSESSMENT

W. P. Richards Says Real Estate Men Approve of Board's Judgment.

CALLED NORMAL GROWTH

Declares Assistant Assessors Are Anxious to Throw All Light Possible on Situation.

Following upon the heels of sharp criticism of the reported \$400,000 increase in realty values, voiced by a number of prominent Washington property owners and business men, assistant assessors in the Washington Herald, came an official statement from W. P. Richards, assessor of the District, in defense of the increased assessment, which has been termed "absurd and despotic."

The chief argument in the assessor's "explanation" in defense of the last assessment is that the judgment of the assistant assessors was thoroughly examined and found fair by "persons having property in the business section and various real estate men." Mr. Richards declined to disclose the names of these men, for the present, at least.

Says Gain Is Normal.

The assessor further argues that the increase in the property values is simply the result of normal growth. In closing, he asserts that the board is "more than anxious to receive all the light possible on the situation and to equalize assessments where their judgment changes seem advisable." His full statement follows:

"The increase of \$400,000 on the triennial assessment is only a very rough estimate, and what this amount will be six months from now is hard to foretell. I will state, however, that in making this assessment the board had at hand more data, etc., than in previous years. In the business section the board took particular care in its assessment, making comparisons with the various squares and having at its command sales covering a period of five years."

"Persons having property in the business section and various real estate men who have examined the assessments seem to think that they are fair, and, taken as a whole, are close to proper values. It has been nearly four years since the board assessed the business section and many changes have come about in that time. If it is true that there has been business depression and values have decreased in the last two years, appeals are in order and the board stands ready to correct any wrong valuation."

Based on Recent Sales.

"Outside of the business section, the greatest increases have been in suburban property, and these have only been made where they could be based on recent sales."

"The board has been continuously in the field since August, and has viewed all of the large tracts of suburban property, and has been active in making inquiries on the ground in regard to the status of the various properties."

"Three years ago the triennial assessment exceeded the assessment of the previous year by \$7,000,000, so that it would appear that there is no cause for calling the present increase absurd. It may be well to state here that ten years ago the triennial assessment received a jump of \$5,000,000, and nearly twenty years ago there was an increase of \$40,000,000. However, there is ahead of the board a period of appeals covering five months, and during that time changes can be made wherever it can be shown that the assessments are either too high or too low."

"The board has during the last six months increased and decreased valuations, and it is more than anxious to receive all the light possible on the situation and to equalize assessments where, in their judgment, changes seem advisable."

FIRM QUILTS AS COUNSEL.

R. Ross Perry & Son to Retire from Car Company's Service.

Announcement was made yesterday that R. Ross Perry & Son will retire as counsel for the Capital Traction Company on January 23.

The retirement has brought about the reorganization of the legal department of the company. The duties of general counsel have been assigned to the president of the company, George E. Hamilton. The trial of cases and work before the courts will be cared for by two attorneys, one to be assigned to each of the Circuit Courts. The attorneys selected are G. Thomas Dunlop, who has long been associated with R. Ross Perry & Son in the company's business, and has made an admirable record of service, and Frank J. Hogan, whose standing and ability are recognized.

The determination of R. Ross Perry & Son to resign is a source of regret, the company appreciating fully the value of their devoted service, which on January 23, will have extended over a period of sixteen years.

MRS. TILLMAN MUST GIVE UP HER PLACE

Department Stands by Its Ruling in Case of Postmistress at Geneva, Ala.

Though Mrs. Ida O. Tillman, recently dismissed as postmistress at Geneva, Ala., is spending twenty-four hours a day in the office there, the Postoffice Department stands by its ruling that she quit the service because she was not there eight hours a day during the larger part of last year.

"While we could hardly take official notice of the fact that Mrs. Tillman has invested money in a new building for the postoffice," said Assistant Postmaster General Ross yesterday, "yet as far back as last September, when I wrote to Representative Clayton regarding her successor, I said I hoped the change could be made without causing her undue financial loss."

There have been hundreds of resignations of postmasters on account of the inability or refusal of postmasters to comply with the order to spend a specific number of hours on duty each day, and this is one of the many.

"We have shown Mrs. Tillman every consideration, but if she refuses to turn over the office to her successor, W. K. Kenan, we probably shall send an inspector down there to take charge."

Alleged Swindler Arrested.

Columbus, Miss., Jan. 2.—Leroy S. Ricker, wanted in Boston on an indictment, charging swindling operations amounting to \$2,000, was arrested here today. Ricker and George E. Stone, alias John P. Bagley, are said to have fled from McGuire, of Boston.

TRY MURINE EYE REMEDY

For Red, Weak, Watery Eyes and GRATED EYELIDS. Murine Doesn't Smart—Softens Eye Pain

BLUE LINE COMPANY SOLD.

Purchased by Merchants' Transfer and Storage Company.

Buying in its entirety the plant, equipment, and delivery service of the Blue Line Transfer Company, which was owned and conducted for years by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, the Merchants' Transfer and Storage Company yesterday assumed the handling of freight heretofore handled by the Blue Line Company. The deal, which was completed several days ago, practically gives to the Merchants' Transfer and Storage Company a leading share in the control of the freight traffic delivery service of Washington.

Following the action of both the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio roads in discontinuing freight transportation, the latter company decided there no longer existed need for its continuing a transportation company here.

The company was quietly offered for sale to several large transportation concerns here, and after some spirited bidding the Merchants' Transfer and Storage Company's bid was accepted, and the sale completed, in the closing days of the old year.

It is said that the railroad company will continue to operate the branch of the Blue Line service in Baltimore.

"MARRYING PARSONS" GREATLY IN DISFAVOR

Rockville "Conservatives" Hope to Have Matrimonial Law Changed by Legislature.

The "marrying parsons" of Rockville, no longer will be allowed to deal in wholesale marriages if the "conservatives" of that fair village are able to convince the Maryland legislature at its next session that the "laughter of the innocents," as they express it, is bringing no little discredit upon their native State.

"Gretta Green" and Rockville, when used synonymously, has the same effect on the conservatives as the display of a red cloth in front of an infuriated bull.

The trouble has arisen over the inclusion of the records in the office of the county clerk by one of the conservatives, who hastened to his brother, in the cause, and told them of the flourishing condition of the matrimonial industry, for the statistics show that no less than 456 eloping couples were married in Rockville during the year of 1912. Indignation meetings were planned, and the wholesale delivery of the full funds of "domestic servitude" was decreed. No little sympathy was expressed for the unsuspecting victims who meekly say "I do," for it is claimed by the conservatives that it is possible for boys and girls still in their teens to obtain marriage licenses under the lax conditions which prevail.

The "liberals," however, say: "Let the elopers come, for every couple that comes here from another State to be married advertises the town, and, besides, leaves money behind."

The marrying parsons side with the liberals, and no let-up in the lucrative business seems near at hand, at least, for the present. One of the parsons married 25 couples during 1912, and receiving an average fee of \$2 per couple.

STAPLES ANSWERS SUIT.

Says Mrs. Annie E. S. Sturges Owes Him \$808.35.

Orren G. Staples yesterday answered the suit of Annie E. S. Sturges to recover a life insurance policy worth \$1,560, and asked permission to call it \$560, and interest thereon. Mrs. Sturges says she owes about \$400 balance for accommodations at the Old Ridge Hotel, and that she assigned the policy to Col. Staples only as security.

The defendant contends that Mrs. Sturges owes him \$808.35, and that the policy was assigned to him outright. He says he is willing to pay her what may be left over and above the principal and interest due him.

Only One "BROMO QUININE." That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of W. G. GROVE. Cures a Cold in One Day. Cures Grip in Two Days.

Church Cordiality

At the Washington Temple meetings you always get a welcome that is sincere. We ask you to come again. Start the New Year right.

SUNDAY 3 P. M.

EVANGELIST

H. CLAY ROCKWELL OF NEW YORK.

The topic will be: "Universal Brotherhood and Peace"

How and when to be established will be two points bearing on the theme to be discussed. The meeting is nonsectarian. There is no collection lifted. All invited.

WASHINGTON TEMPLE CONGREGATION

NEW MASONIC TEMPLE.

CAPITAL \$1,000,000 EARNED SURPLUS \$1,000,000

WE'RE None Too Big to Appreciate

—the accounts of small depositors, nor are we too small to meet the greatest banking demands.

Make this YOUR banking headquarters for 1914.

SAME RATE of interest paid on both large and small accounts.

National Savings and Trust Company

Corner 15th and N. Y. Ave. FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR.

LOANS HORNING

On Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, etc. N. E. Corner 15th and D Sts.

Now Buy Your Girl A NEW COAT

AT THESE REDUCED PRICES. Very little to pay for Very Fine Girls' Coats. Size Range 6 to 14 and, of course, not all sizes in any one style, but all sizes in the lot!

Girls' Coats, \$3.33. Worth up to \$6.00.

Girls' Coats, \$4.33. Worth up to \$8.00.

Girls' Coats, \$5.33. Worth up to \$10.00.

Girls' Coats, \$6.33. Worth up to \$12.00.

Girls' Coats, \$7.33. Worth up to \$14.00.

Girls' Coats, \$8.33. Worth up to \$16.00.

COATS worth up to \$20.00, NOW \$9.33. Second Floor—Children's Coats.

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